

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



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Sun-Earth Day 2012

Shadows of the Sun



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Do you know that we all live in the atmosphere of the Sun, which can be seen safely with the naked eyes only during a total solar eclipse? Planets also occasionally pass in front of our star, creating shadows that intrigue explorers and inform astronomers. Join NASA in learning more about the Transit of Venus on June 5-6, 2012, and a total solar eclipse on November 13-14, 2012

Other celestial events to observe include:

- 3/12-13 Jupiter and Venus are 3° apart
- 3/16 Moon occults Pluto (last seen 1935)
- 3/25 Jupiter and moon are 2° apart
- 4/03 Venus moves through Pleiades
- 5/20 Jupiter and Mercury are 2° apart
- 5/20 Annular solar eclipse visible in the Western US
- 6/04 Lunar eclipse visible in Hawaii
- 6/17 Thin crescent moon occults Jupiter in Barrow Alaska and Northern Canada
- 7/14 Jupiter and moon are 0.03° apart, visible in Eastern US

Questions to ask:

How often does a transit of Venus or a total solar eclipse occur?

Why do people travel long distances to see these transits and eclipses?

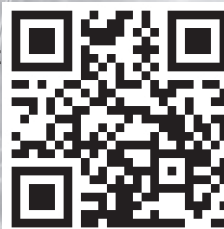
What does a transit or eclipse look like from space?

What is the difference between a transit and an eclipse?

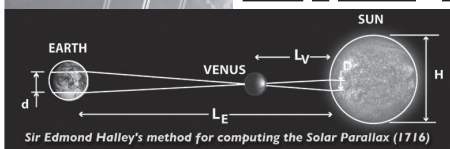
When will a transit or eclipse occur in my hometown?

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